OBSESSIONS (1969) music rundown

Music by Bernard Herrmann (CBS Music Library)

[dvd spotting locations approximate]

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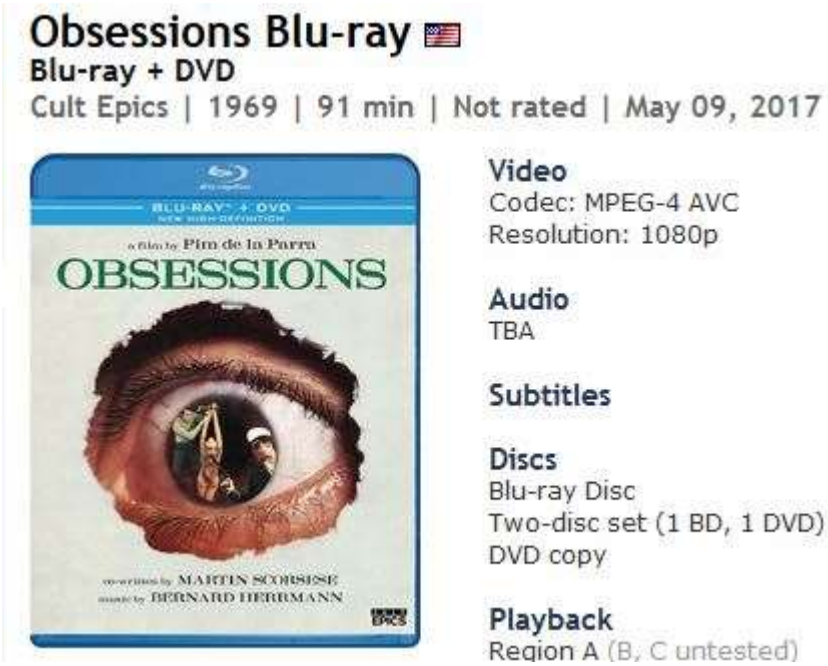


To recognize the May 9, 2017 Cult Epics release of the Blu-ray dvd of *Obsessions* (1969), I decided to compile the following complete sequential rundown of Herrmann's tracked-in music for the movie. It is indeed "Music by Bernard Herrmann" but not a specifically written "Score by Bernard Herrmann" (original score) for this movie. Since the producers only had a $20,000 budget for music (insufficient for a Herrmann made-to-order new score), Herrmann suggested that they license his music from the CBS Music Library. The music used there appears to be from the TransWorld Recorded Library compilation of CBS cues (see image immediately below this paragraph). At any rate, all of the cues used in *Obsessions* are in the TransWorld collection. The only one I could not specifically find named in that list is "Hagar's Rage" from *Collector's Item*. It is possible the item was actually in the compilation but not identified, or identified incorrectly. Perhaps that second *Brave New World* was actually *Collector's Item* (or simply Part I & Part II of the former.

## Collection Guide

**Collection Title:** Guide to the Bernard Herrmann Papers, 1927-1977

**Collection Number:** PA Mss 3

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### Series IV: Sound Recordings
### Subseries D: Concert Music

**Subseries E: TransWorld Recorded Library, 1962-1964**

| | |
|---|---|
| item A1664/D12 | The Chase, Indian Gathering, The Hunt, Indian Fight |
| item A1665/D12 | Sun Clouds, Sun Clouds (Faster), Dramatic |
| item A1666/D12 | Dramatic II, Dramatic (Faster), Rain Clouds |
| item A1667/D12 | Space Drift, Space Drift (Faster), Signals |
| item A1668/D12 | Starlight, Starlight (Faster), Space Stations |
| item A1669/D12 | Moonscape, Moonscape (Faster), The Airlock, The Airlock (Faster) |
| item A1670/D12 | Tycho, Tycho, Tycho (Faster), Danger |
| item A1671/D12 | Brave New World |
| item A1672/D12 | Brave New World |
| item A1673/D12 | Suspence Processional: 5, 2, 2A, 3, 3 (Faster) |
| item A1674/D12 | Suspence Processional: 4, 4 (Opening), 4A; Emotional Suspence 3 |
| item A1675/D12 | Emotional Suspense: 1, 2; Emotional: 3, 1; Emotional con Moto |
| item A1675/D12 | Emotional Suspense: 1, 2; Emotional: 3, 1; Emotional con Moto |
| item A1676/D12 | Emotional 2, Agitato Bridge 1 & 2, Agitato Suspense, Poco Agitato, Sneak to Tag, Descending Pyramid, Descending Pyramid (Faster), Accent, Religious Bridge |
| item A1677/D12 | The World Today (by Willis Schaefer) Landmark Opening, Landmark Finale (Herrmann) |

Look to the final five "item" rows before the bottom row, starting with Item A1673/D12. You will see Suspense Processional 4 (incorrectly spelled "Suspence"), Emotional Suspense, Agitato Bridge, Emotional, Descending Pyramid, and so on. These are cues and/or sections of cues from Herrmann's *Walt Whitman* suite of cues from the June 20, 1944 radio show, Columbia Presents Corwin. *Walt Whitman* was the third part of the so-called *American Trilogy* series for Corwin. *American Trilogy I* was "Sandburg" (June 6, 1944) while *American Trilogy II* was "Thomas Wolfe" (June 13, 1944). *Walt Whitman* was later rerecorded for CBS Television in London sometime in August 1957. The designation is CBS 8-34-D1. The CBS cue # is a generalized #298. Cue 1 of the series would be #298-1, then #298-2 for cue II, and so on.

Only a few of the *Brave New World* (a CBS radio score dated January 27, 1956) cues were used in *Obsessions*, such as cue III sixteen minutes into the movie. I did hear Herrmann's "Landmark" music being used in the picture. This is just as well since the martial "Landmark" music would not really fit in the movie. Unfortunately, in my opinion, some of the music that *was* used in the movie did not really fit either. Specifically the "Indian Fight" music from the so-called Indian Suite of cues (composed mid 1957) used for the Opening Titles is unwise. The music editing gets appreciably better after the Opening Titles but the jarring mixture of sounds there (mixing cues with overlaps with some of the music actually simultaneously combined) sounds pretty chaotic to me! : ).....Moreover, there are I believe voodoo percussion drum beats sounding simultaneously then and in various other sections of the movie that definitely are not by Herrmann. Except for these drum effects, everything else heard in the movie is Herrmann's music. There is one tiny fragment of a Herrmann cue towards the end of the movie when the Bad Man gets arrested that I could not identify--the only tracked-in selection that I could not identify with certainty.

As far as frequency is concerned, Herrmann's so-called *Western Suite* of cues ("Rain Clouds," "The Ambush," "Dramatic II (Gunfight" etc.) were used the most in the movie (approximately 36% of the time). Next the so-called *Outer Space Suite* ("Danger," "Signals," "Airlock," etc.) were used about 30% of the time. Then the *Walt Whitman* series of cues were used about 20% of the time. The *Indian Suite* cues were only used a few times; same for *Brave New World and Collector's Item* ("Hagar's Rage").

Now: I created two YouTube educational videos of this music. One is a short version of about twelve & a half minutes that shows each respective scene for its corresponding music synch with the approximate dvd timing. For example, music track #1 occurs approximately (depending within a few seconds if the dvd is played on the computer or a dvd player or whatever) nine seconds into the movie thru 48 seconds into the movie. The music identified here is the *Walt Whitman* cue IX "Emotional # 3, Section C. The start scene is the "Scorpio Films" logo. This short-version video is visual only (no audio presentation of the music). This video is already available but unlisted. I plan to make it public on YouTube to coincide roughly with the release of the Blu-ray dvd on May 9 (perhaps even a few weeks earlier depending on circumstances). Here is the short-version (no audio) link:

https://youtu.be/i2qDOfBT1kY

The second video is twice as long, about 24 minutes. It has the same educational information of the music used in the picture but it also now presents the audio. There are, however, no visual examples of the written music. Here, however, in this paper, I'll remedy that by showing my own hand-copies of the cues based on my long research. Nico of Cult Epics will provide the long version of the video on his site when his Blu-ray is released (North American rights belong to him) and provide links at various sites. I may eventually provide the video permanently on my Film Score Rundowns YouTube site.

I may not (except in small groupings) provide a visual image of the scene corresponding to the music track in most or many cases since the video(s) provide such details for each & every track. Come to think of it, actually I did not provide audio (information, yes) on *every* music track since there were several instances of repeated tracks.

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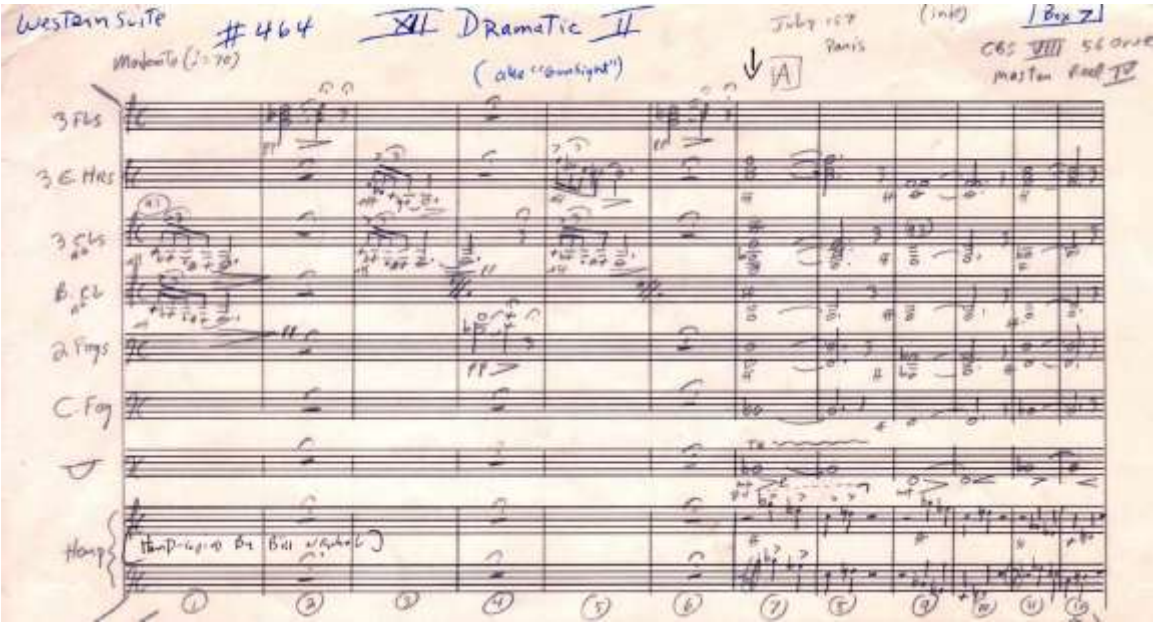
## OBSESSIONS cue rundown

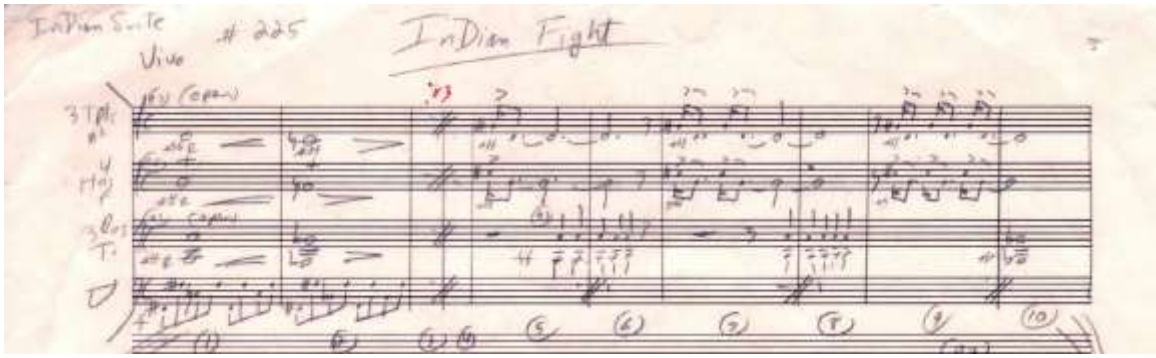
Note: the Opening Titles are music tracks #1, 2 & 3.

-OBSESSIONS Music track #1 (dvd approx. 00:09 - 00:48) Walt Whitman cue IX "Emotional #3" Section C [Scene: Scorpio Films]

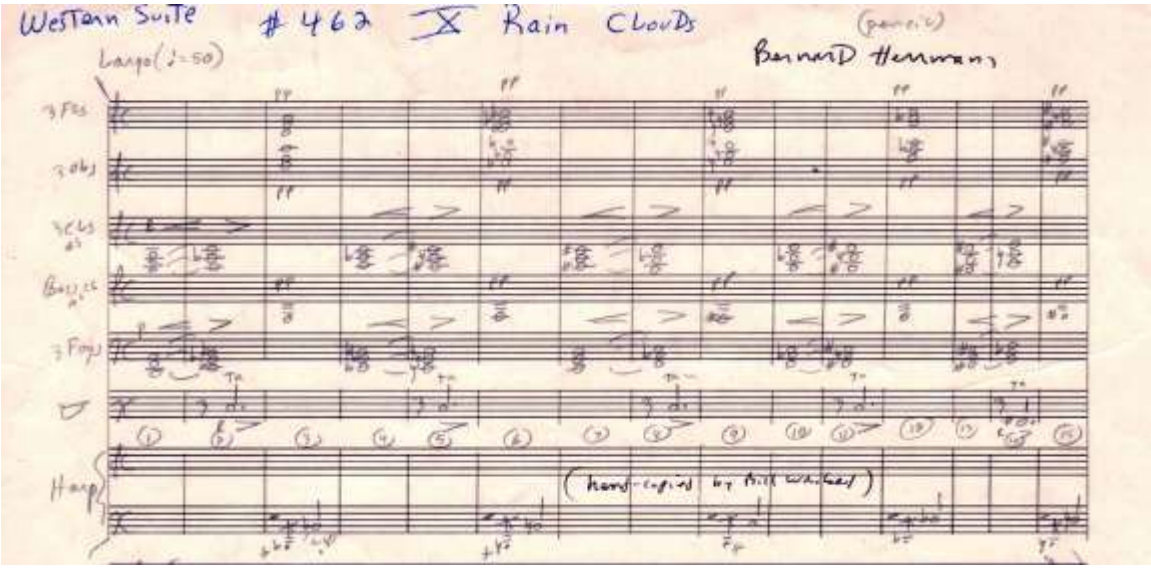
-OBSESSIONS Music track #2 (dvd approx. 00:43) "Dramatic II (Gunfight)" [Western Suite] Bars 7-14  [Scene: hole-in-wall image]




-OBSESSIONS Music track #3 (dvd 00:44-2:14) "Indian Fight" [Indian Suite] Bars 1-59, 82-87 [Scene: "Dieter Geissler"]

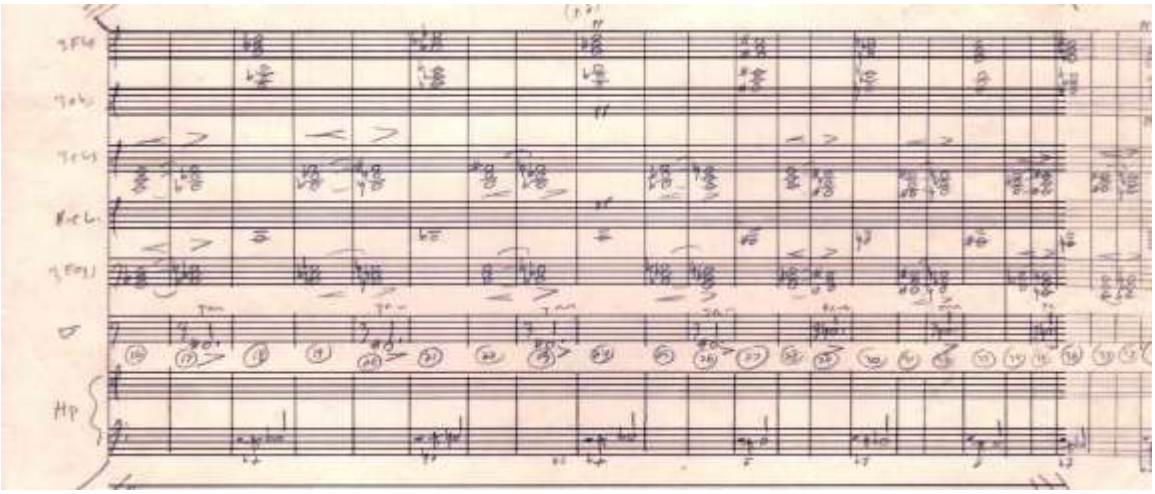



-OBSESSIONS Music track #4 (dvd 04:57-05:27) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] cue X, CBS cue #462, Bars 1-8  [Scene: Nils in a white cowboy hat walks to window]

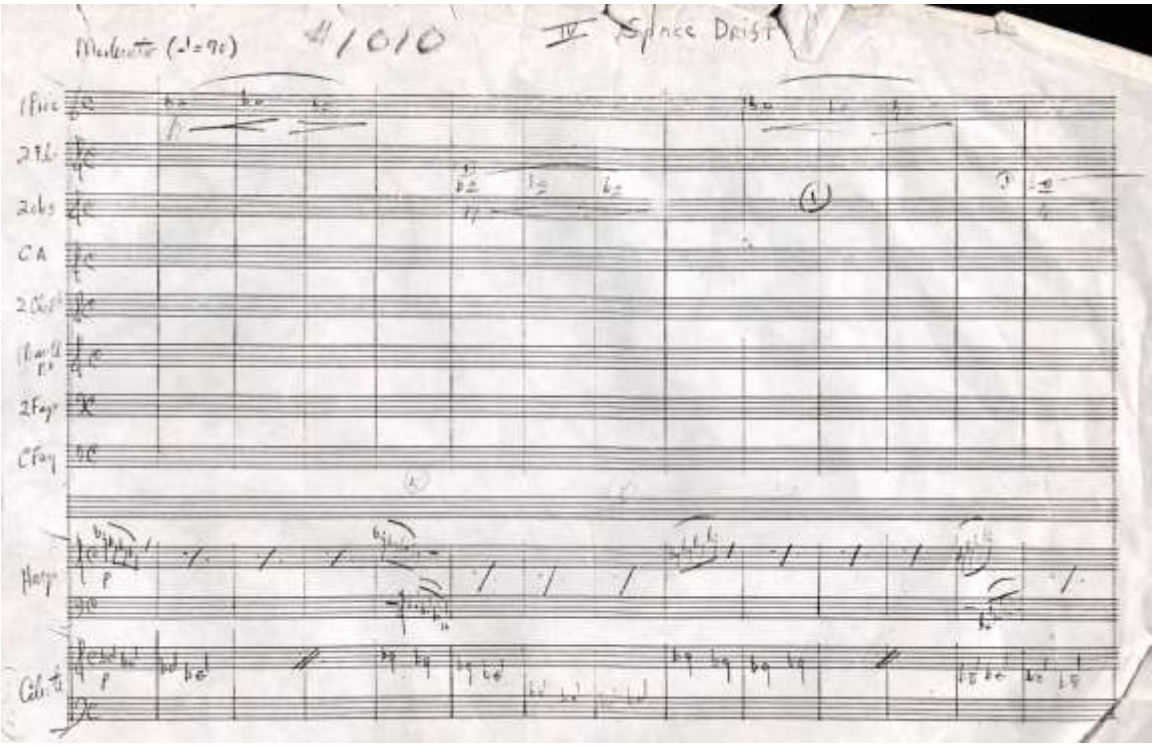



-OBSESSIONS Music track #5 (dvd 06:26-6:35) Unknown percussion beats track [Scene: Nils spying thru hole in wall on woman & man next apartment]

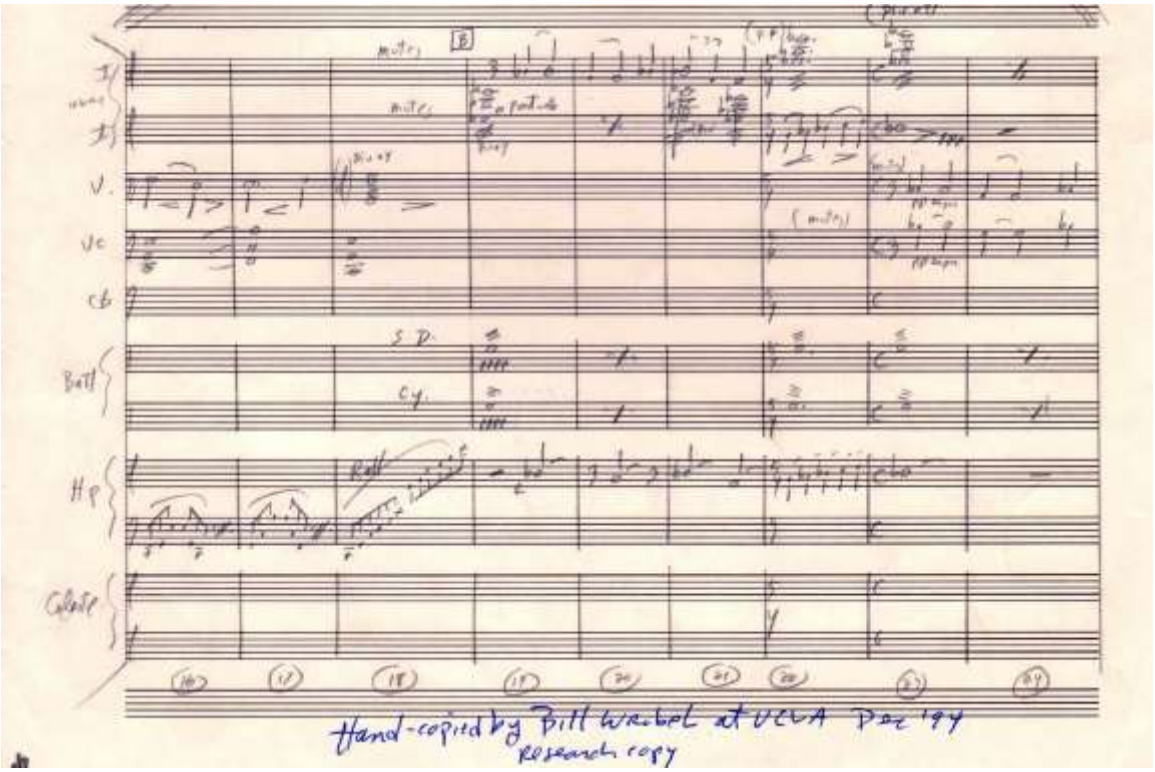
-OBSESSIONS Music track #6 (dvd 06:54-8:04) "Rain Clouds" Bars 24-42 [Scene: Nils walks to door]



-OBSESSIONS Music track #7 (dvd 08:11 - 8:58) "Space Drift" [Outer Space Suite] cue IV, CBS #1010, Bars 1-12, 17-18 [Scene: Nils in shop]

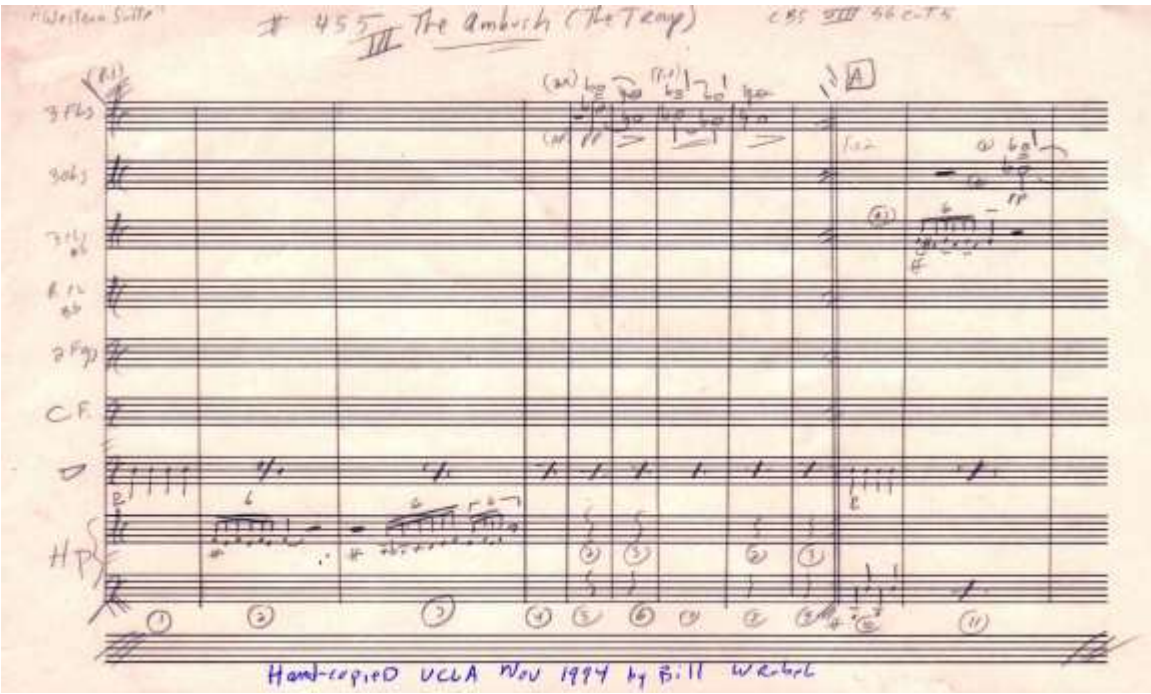



-OBSESSIONS Music track #8 (dvd 10:57-11:33) Walt Whitman, cue VIII "Emotional #2"  Bars 14-23 [Scene: Nils in cowboy hat talks to Marina as John Wayne]

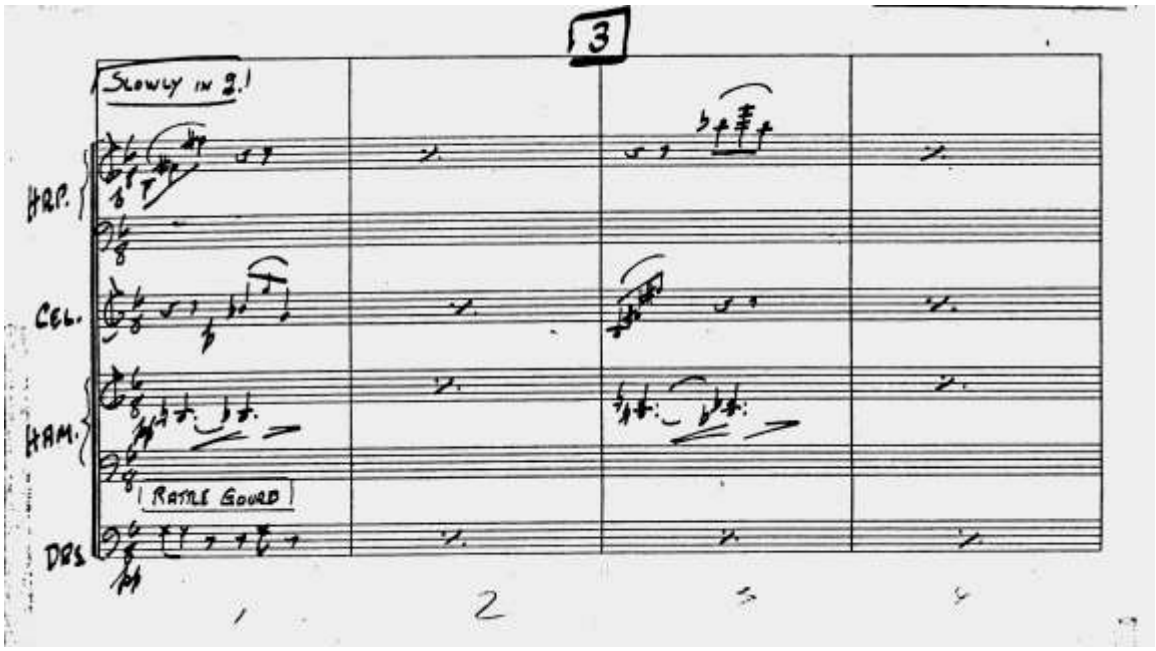


-OBSESSIONS Music track #9 (dvd 12:04-12:15) Walt Whitman, cue IX "Emotional #3" Bar 28, end Bars 36-37 [Scene: red-dressed woman walks up stairs]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #10 (dvd 12:43-14:42) "The Ambush (The Trap)" [Western Suite] cue III, CBS #455, Bars 2-9, 19-33, 40-42 [Scene: white-coated woman walks across canal bridge]



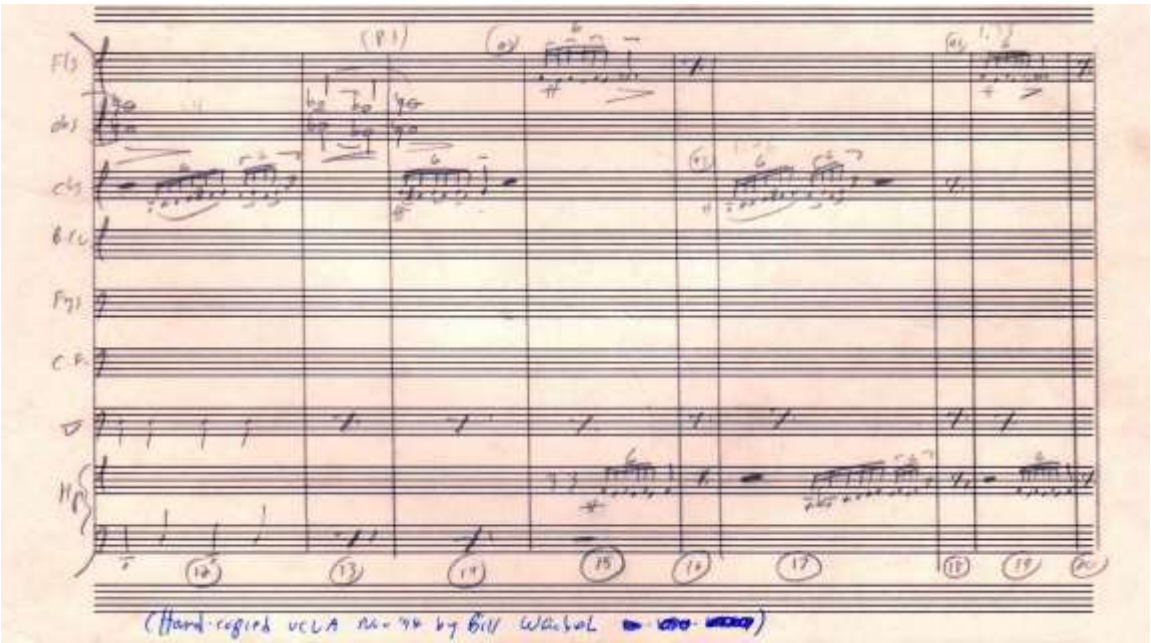

-OBSESSIONS Music track #11 (dvd 16:18-16:47) Brave New World, cue 3, Bars 1-6 etc. [Scene: darkened room]




-OBSESSIONS Music track #12 (dvd 16:57-17:03) Brave New World cue fragment [Scene: Nils removes bandage from tied woman in bathroom]

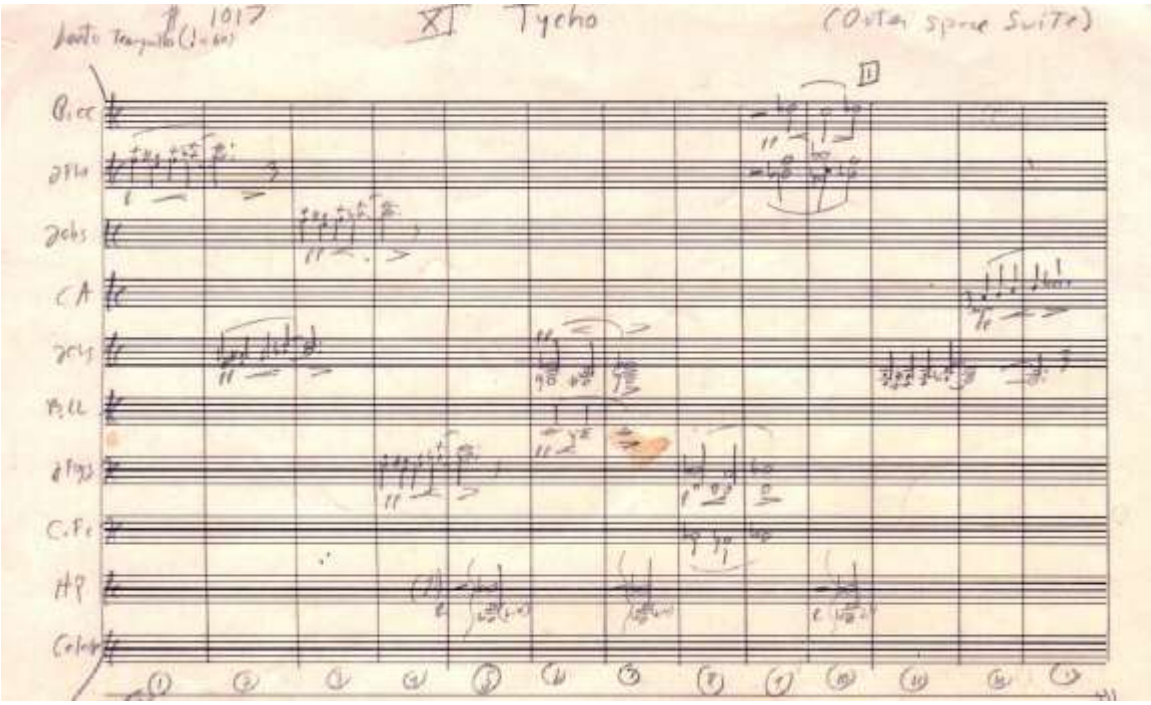
-OBSESSIONS Music track #13 (dvd 20:18-21:23) "The Ambush (The Trap)" [Western Suite] Bars 1-9, etc [Scene: bald-headed man standing on canal bridge]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #14 (dvd 27:16-29:18) "The Ambush (The Trap)" [Western Suite] Bars 2-24, 21-24, etc [Scene: Nils on scooter]



-OBSESSIONS Music track #15 (dvd 30:29-32:00) unknown percussion beats track [Scene: fully-dressed Nils in shower with naked woman]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #16 (dvd 32:39-33:47) "Tycho" [Outer Space Suite] cue XI, CBS #1017, Bars 6-31 [Scene: girlfriend in white night gown in room]




-OBSESSIONS Music track #17 (dvd 33:51-34:24) "Tycho" [Outer Space Suite] cue XI, CBS #1017, Bars 24-31 etc [girlfriend peeps thru hole in wall]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #18 (dvd 35:35-35:48) Walt Whitman cue IX "Emotional #3" Section C, Bars 36-37 etc [Scene: Nils discovers peep hole is plastered over]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #19 (dvd 36:41-36:49) "Dramatic II (Gunfight)" [Western Suite] Bars 1-2 [Scene: Nils in shop]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #20 (dvd 42:08-42:48) "Space Drift" [Outer Space Suite] faster version, Bars 1-20 [Scene: white-dressed woman leaves building]

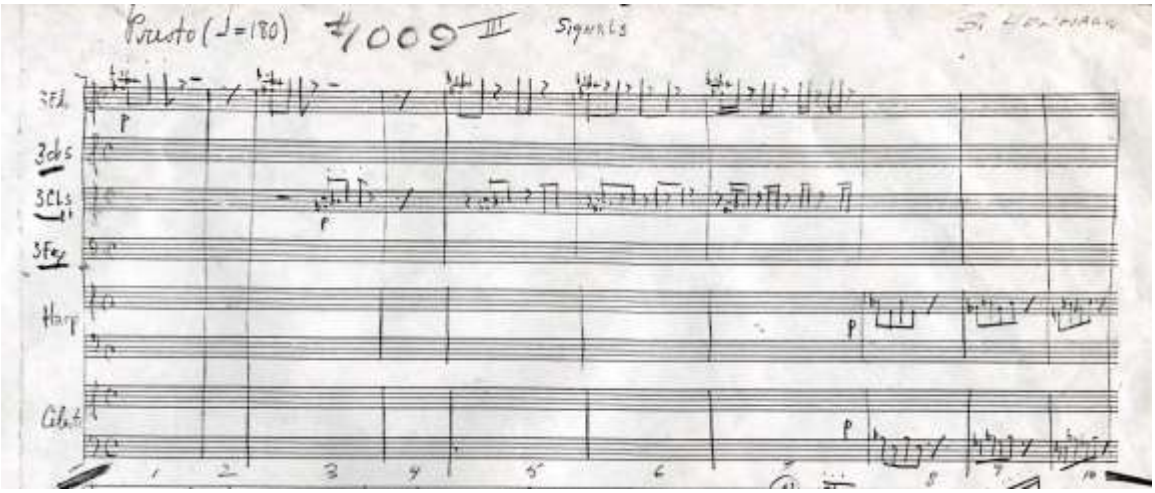
OBSESSIONS
Music track #21
(dvd 43;46
on)unknown pe...

OBSESSIONS
Music track #22
(dvd 44;06-45;10)
'Signals' [Outer ...

OBSESSIONS
Music track #23
(dvd 47;24-48;16)
Walt Whitman ...

-OBSESSIONS Music track #21 (dvd 43:46 on) unknown percussion beats track (overlap to next track) [Scene: same woman in full slip on chair seduces Nils]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #22 (dvd 44:06-45:10) "Signals" [Outer Space Suite] cue III, CBS #1009, Bars 1-40 (with overlapping percussion beats) [Scene: Nils & woman passionately kiss]




-OBSESSIONS Music track #23 (dvd 47:24-48:16) Walt Whitman cue IX "Emotional #3" Sect C (with overlapping percussion beats) [Scene: white birds flying over canal]

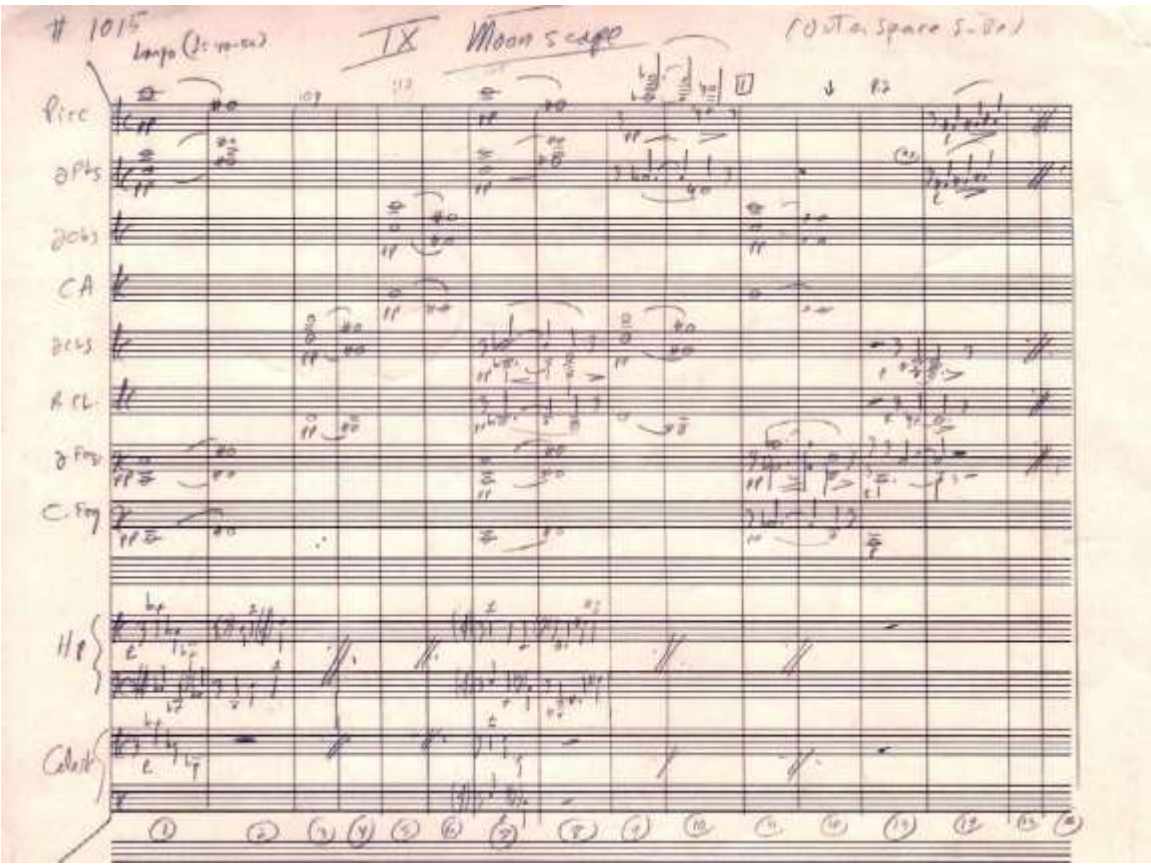
OBSESSIONS
Music track #24
(dvd 48;48-49;06)
'Tycho' [Outer ...

OBSESSIONS
Music track #25
(dvd 51;05-52;26)
'Moonscape' [O...

OBSESSIONS
Music track #26
(dvd 52;53-54;22)
'Moonscape' [O...

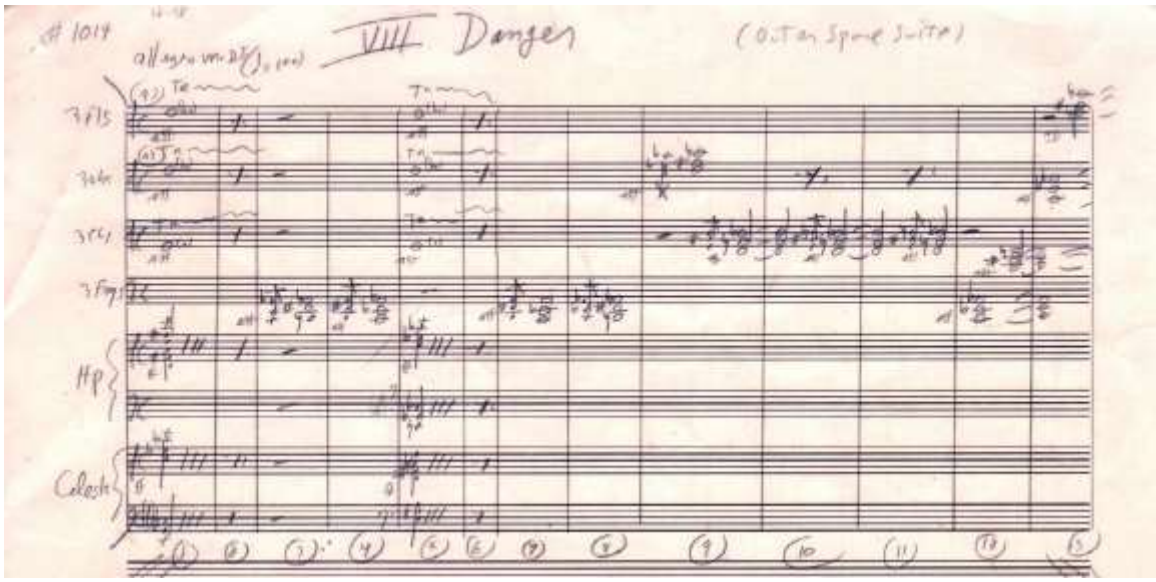
-OBSESSIONS Music track #24 (dvd 48:48-49:06) "Tycho" [Outer Space Suite]  [Scene: Nils with comb grooming his hair]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #25 (dvd 51:05-52:26) "Moonscape" [Outer Space Suite] cue IX, CBS #1015, Bars 1-19, etc [Nils & Marina in car at night]



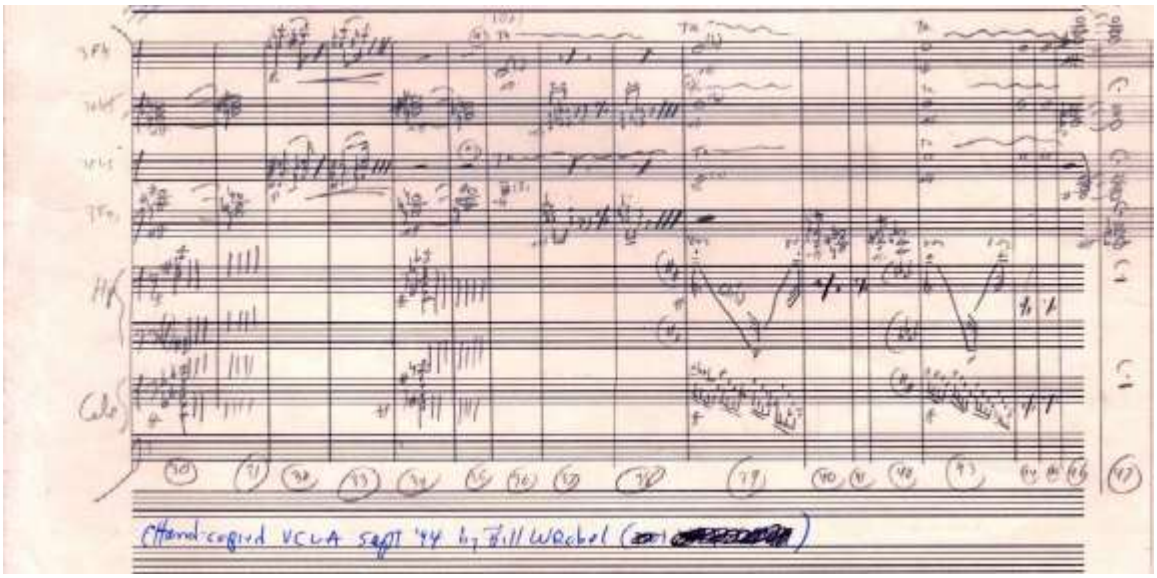

-OBSESSIONS Music track #26 (dvd 52:53-54:22) "Moonscape" [Outer Space Suite] Bars 1-19, 24-26 [Scene: Nils jumps into the water]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #27 (dvd 59:43-1:00:28) "Danger" [Outer Space Suite] cue VIII, CBS #1014, Bars 1-8, 28-45 [Scene: Bad guy opens door]




-OBSESSIONS Music track #28 (dvd 1:01:00-1:00:07) "Danger" [Outer Space Suite] cue VIII, CBS #1014, Bars 1-8  [Scene: Nils in hiding gets up from under the neighbor's bed]

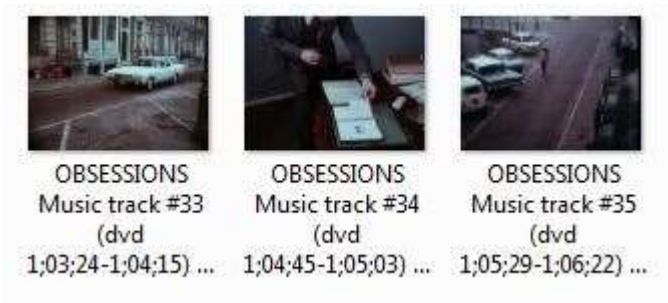
-OBSESSIONS Music track #29 (dvd 1:01:11-1:01:32) "Danger" [Outer Space Suite] cue VIII, CBS #1014, Bars 36-40, 43-47 [Scene: Bad man inspects his blaring car]



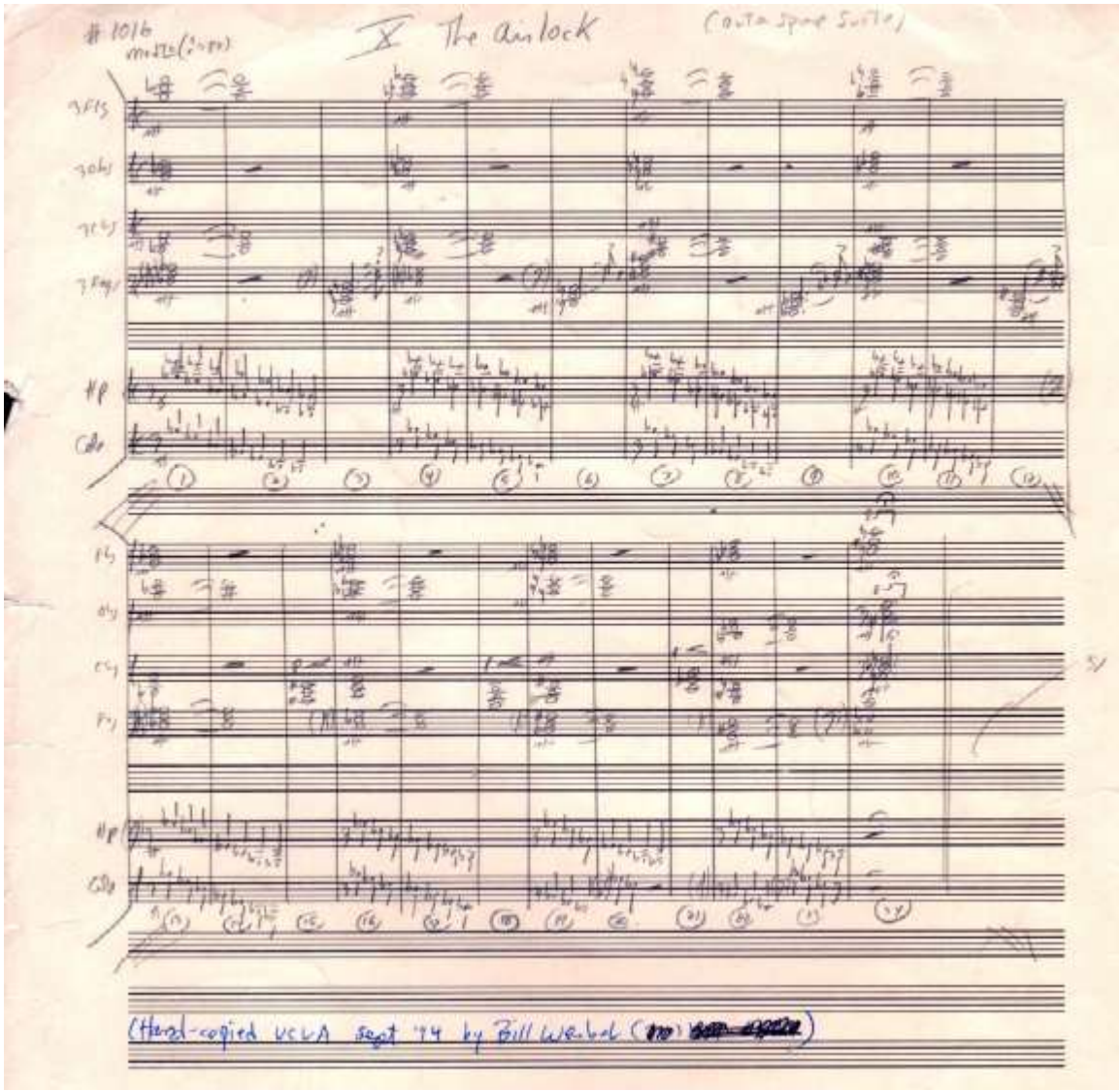
-OBSESSIONS Music track #30 (dvd 1:02:16-1:02:28) "Dramatic II" [Western Suite] Bars 1-4 [Scene: bald-headed man spying from within car]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #31 (dvd 1:02:34-1:03:03) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] Bars 1-8 [Scene: suspect's car on channel bridge]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #32 (dvd 1:03:04-1:03:18 "Dramatic II" [Western Suite] Bars 7-12 [Scene: bald-headed man inspects mailboxes]

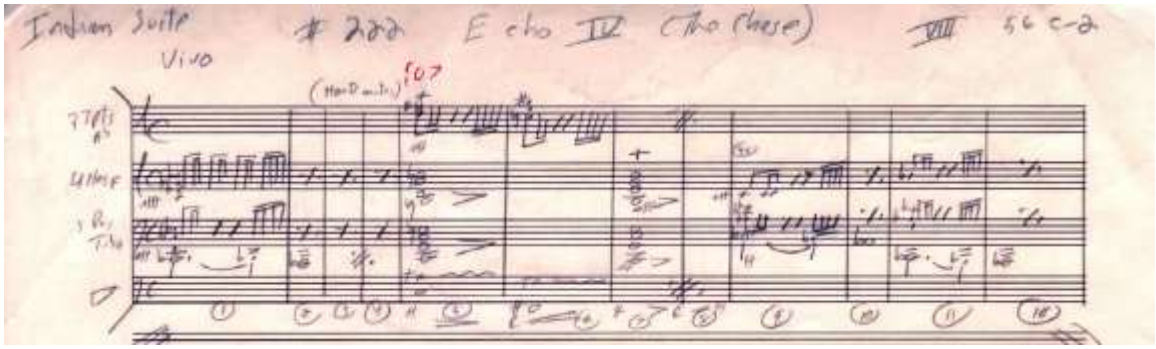


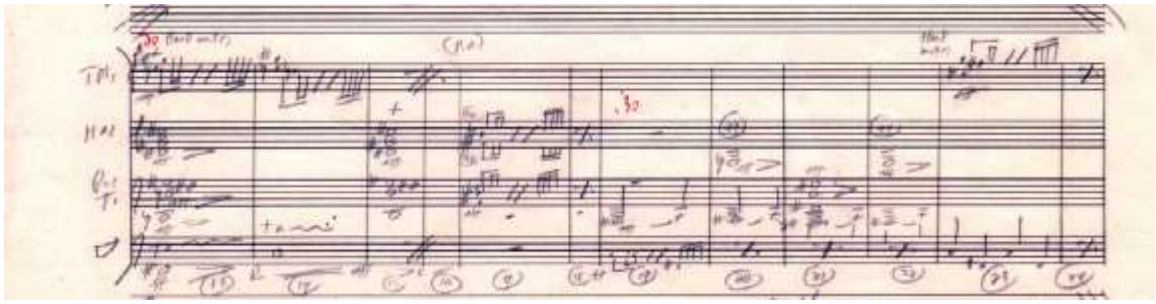
-OBSESSIONS Music track #33 (dvd 1:03:24-1:04:15) "Airlock" [Outer Space Suite] cue X, CBS #1016, all 24 bars [bald-headed man back in white station wagon]



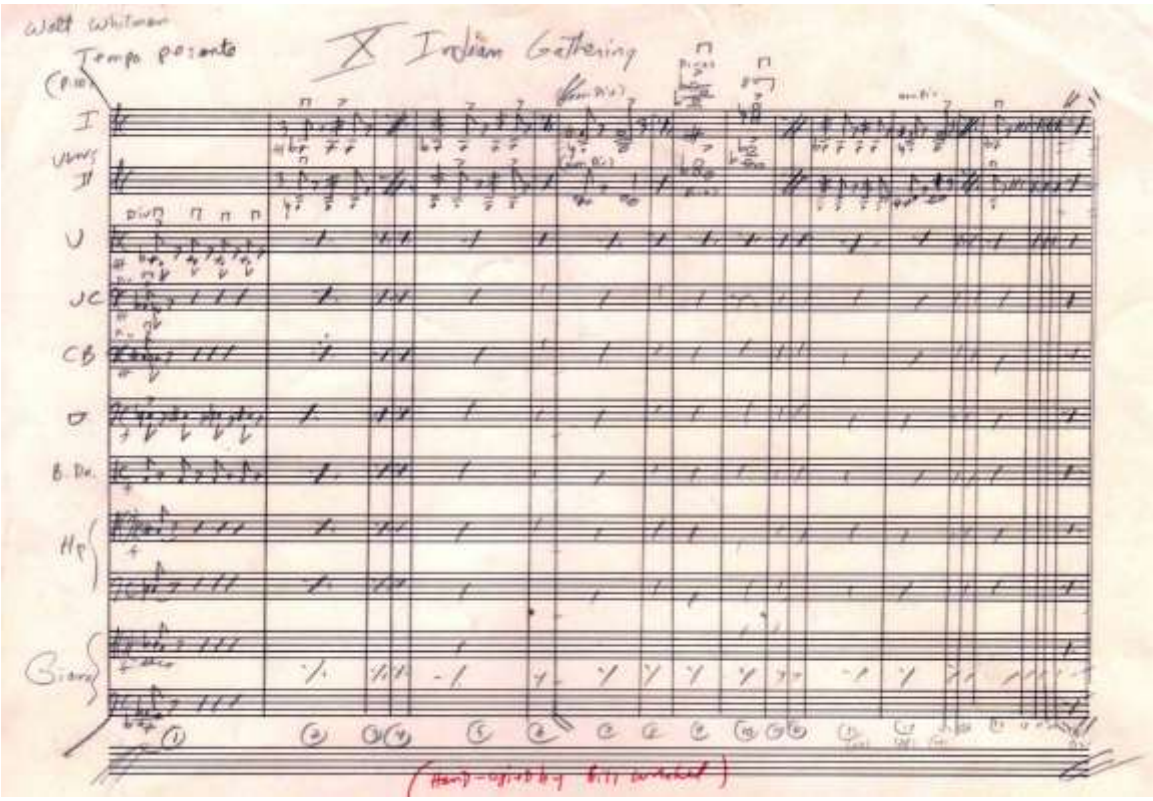

-OBSESSIONS Music track #34 (dvd 1:04:45-1:05:03) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] Bars 1-5 with overlapping percussion beats track [Scene: Nils telephones]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #35 (dvd 1:05:29-1:06:22) "Echo IV (The Chase)" [Indian Suite] CBS cue #222, Bars 5-36 [Scene: woman hurries outside]



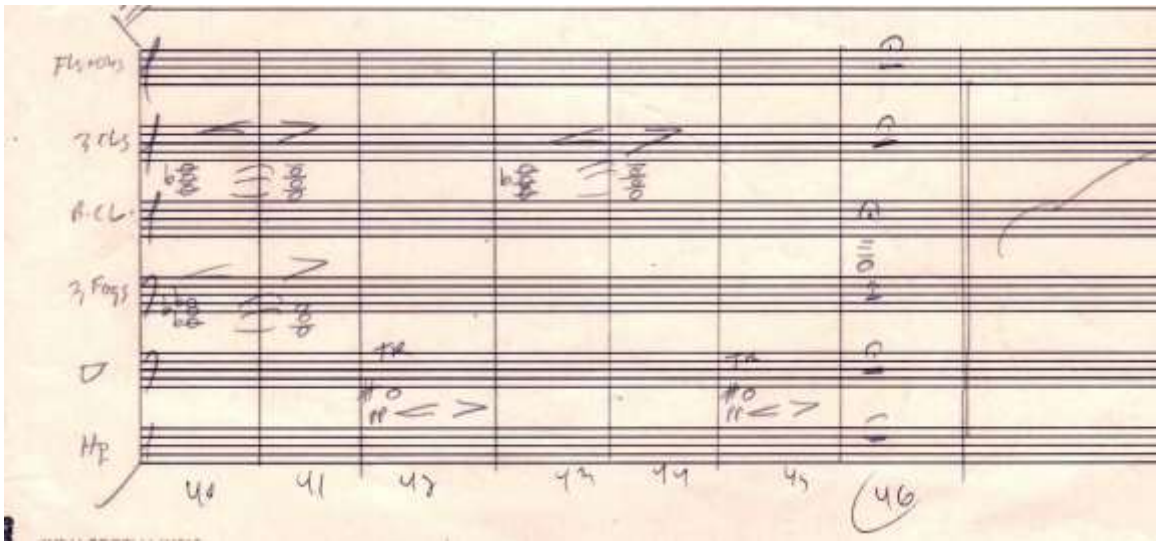


-OBSESSIONS Music track #36 (dvd 1:08:20-1:08:44) Walt Whitman cue X "Indian Gathering" Bars 1-12 [Scene: Nils on scooter watching woman]




-OBSESSIONS Music track #37 (dvd 1:09:00-1:09:40) Walt Whitman cue X "Indian Gathering" Bars 1-21 [Scene: Nils follows her at night]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #38 (dvd 1:14:23-1:15:31) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] Bars 1-15, end Bars 45-46 [Scene: man talks at party]



-OBSESSIONS Music track #39 (dvd 1:15:42-1:15:58) "Space Drift" [Outer Space Suite) Bars 2-7 [Scene: white-dressed woman arrives at party]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #40 (dvd 1:17:55-1:19:18) "Space Drift" [Outer Space Suite) Bars 10-31, end Bars 56-57 [Scene: White-dressed woman seated]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #41 (dvd 1:19:51-1:20:54) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] Bars 22-38, 45 [Scene: White-dressed woman & Nils kiss in hallway]

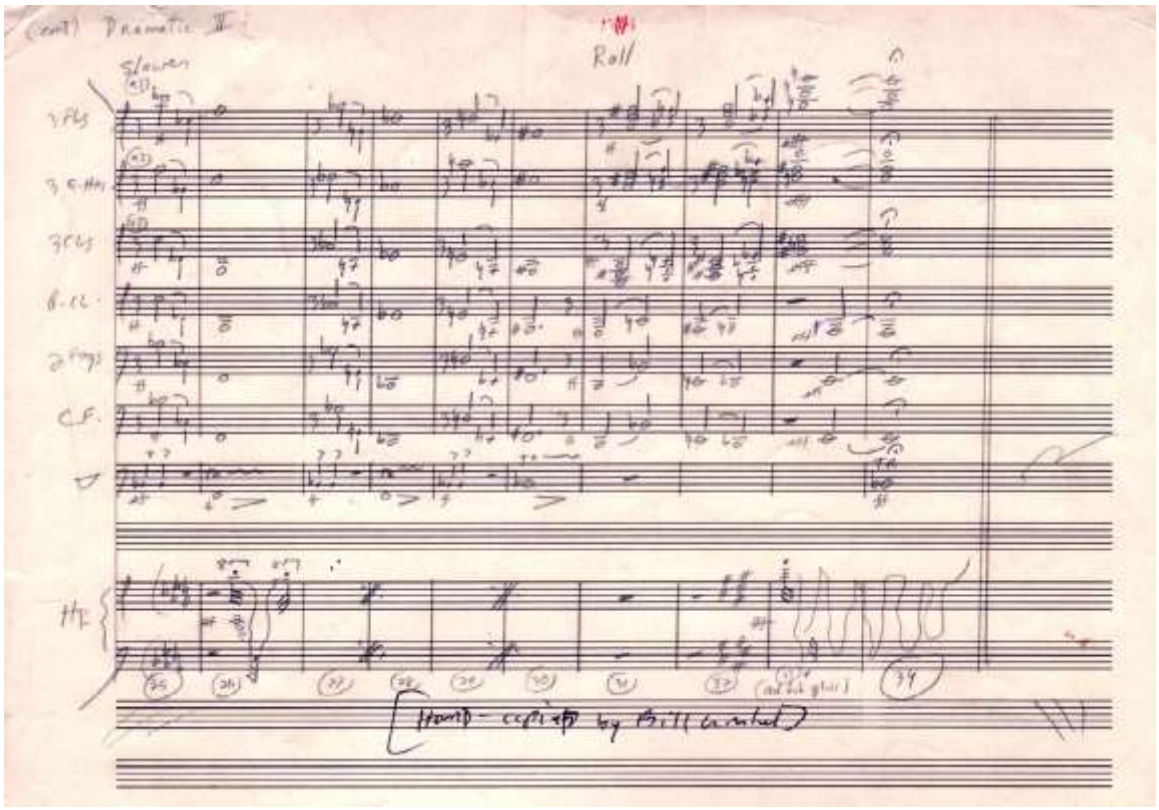
-OBSESSIONS Music track #42 (dvd 1:20:55-1:21:19) Collector's Item, CBS cue #1294, "Hagar's Rage" [Scene: Bad man in his apartment]

[NOTE: I never found the written cue in the CBS Collection....]

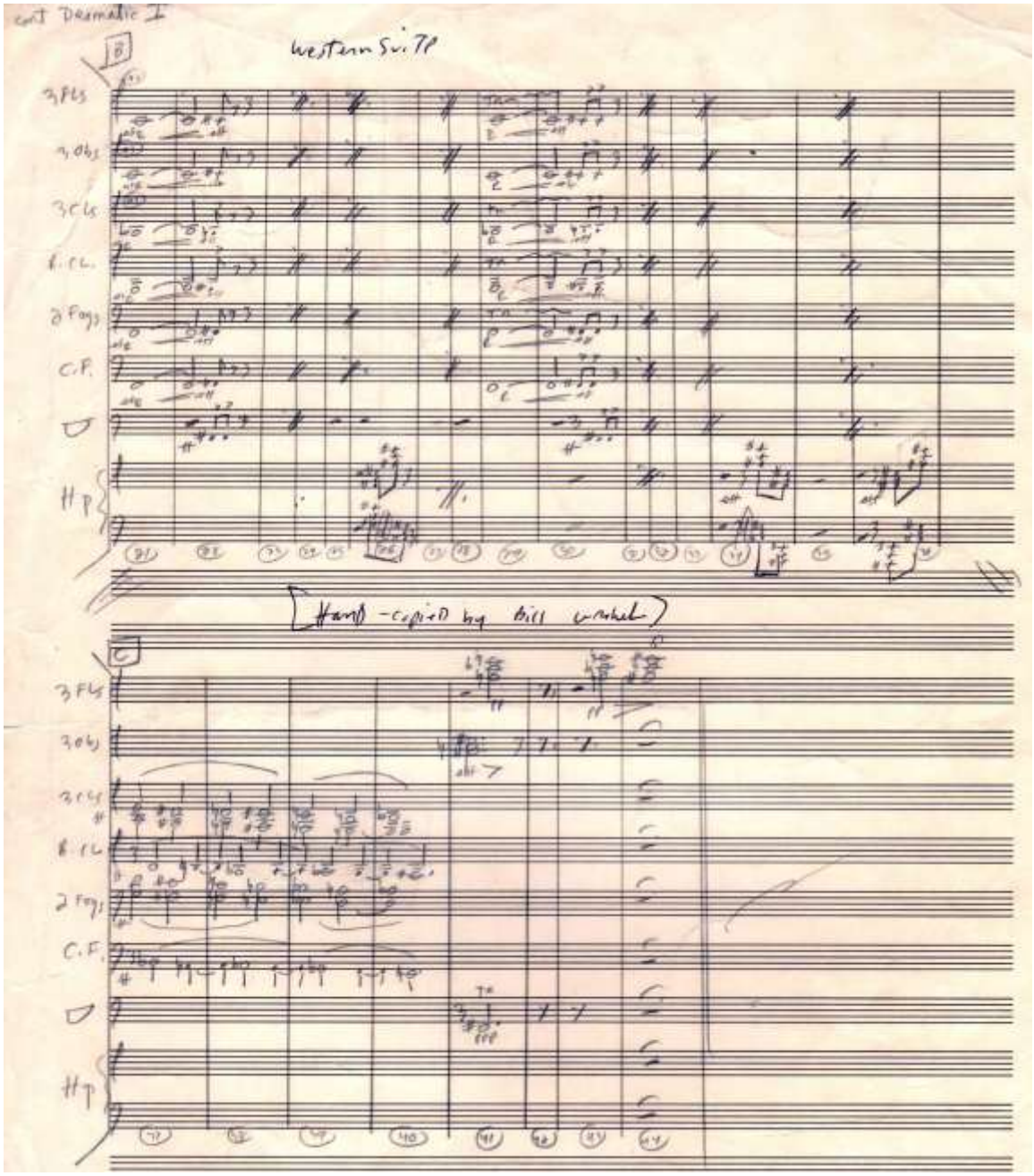
-OBSESSIONS Music track #43 (dvd 1:21:51-1:22:34) "Tycho" [Outer Space Suite] Bars 1-10 [Scene: outside talk by car]

OBSESSIONS Music track #44 (dvd 1:22:37-1:22:50) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] Bars 42-45 [Scene: Bad man packing up]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #45 (dvd 1:22:51-1:23:20) "Dramatic II (Gunfight)' [Western Suite] Bars 25-30, end Bars 33-34 [Scene: Bad man discovers peep-hole]




-OBSESSIONS Music track #46 (dvd 1:23:43-1:24:40) "Dramatic I [Prelude)" [Western Suite] Bars 21-28, 15-20, 29-44 [Scene: opens door to look outside]



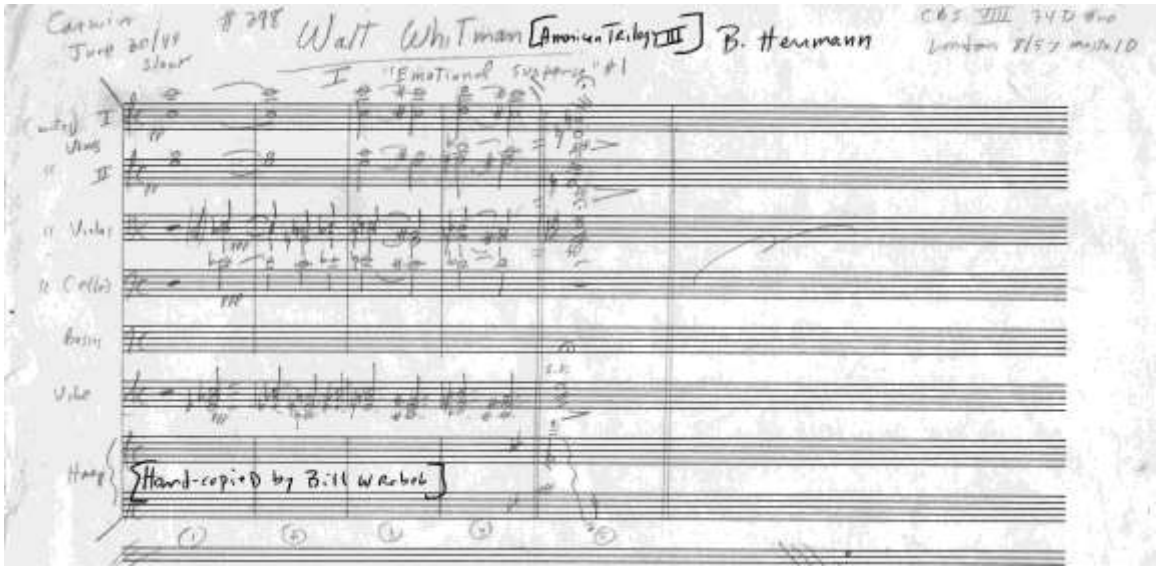

-OBSESSIONS Music track #47 (dvd 1:25:28-1:25:43) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] [Scene: Bad man gets his gun]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #48 (dvd 1:26:14-1:27:30)) "Rain Clouds" [Western Suite] Bars 1-15 [Scene: Bad man readies gun near peep-hole]

-OBSESSIONS music track #49 (dvd 1:27:58-1:28:47) Walt Whitman cue IX Section C "Emotional #3" [Scene--Nils shot in Eye by bad man]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #50 (dvd 1:28:48-1:28:58) unidentified cue [Scene: Bad man arrested outside]

-OBSESSIONS Music track #51 (dvd 1:29:00-1:30:21) Walt Whitman cue I "Emotional Suspense #1" Bars 1-4 played 4X [Scene: Nils Janssen's grave]




-OBSESSIONS Music track #52 (dvd 1:30:22-1:30:25) Walt Whitman cue I "Emotional Suspense #1"  Bar 5 [Scene: Marina leaves cemetery]

Finale

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-music identifications compiled by Bill Wrobel [Film Score Rundowns]
-final Word doc version Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 9:33 pm PDT
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